

h: Carter aides are anti-Israel

NEW YORK, March 11 (R) — Mayor Edward Koch has accused President Carter's top advisers of being anti-Israel in one of the most heated reactions yet to the U.S. vote in the United Nations Security Council on the Israeli settlement in occupied Arab territory. The mayor, a Jewish-American politician, named the four as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, U.N. Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld, former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. In an interview today in the New York Post, Mr. Koch said that Mr. and Mrs. Young were "third world-oriented and vic-torious." He said the four men had taken positions that "I'm not going to go into their minds just telling you the facts. They're anti-Israel." Yes, the policemen were injured in a clash with members of the Jewish Defence League protesting against the U.S. vote. Members of the league were arrested, including its founder, Meir Kahane.

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izing large Arab Jerusalem tract
rael discloses plans
build new settlement

JERUSALEM, March 11 (AP) — The Israeli government today disclosed plans to seize

a large tract of Arab land in occupied Jerusalem to build a new Jewish residential neighbourhood.

Ministry sources said an Israeli law authorizing the seizure of 1,100 acres (450 hectares) north of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in 1967.

on flew in the face of the United Nations Security Council resolution 242 of 1947, which called for an end to Jewish claims on Arab land. It was with fury in Israel and Jimmy Carter's withdrawal of U.S. support.

Ministry sources said the decision was not an Israeli reaction to the U.S. vote.

been discussing this for a while and it is a decision that came up a week after the U.N. vote.

sources said the land would be divided into two parts: one for Jews and one for Arabs, while the other two per cent of the land, the sources

owners will be compensated. The decision will be made by the courts if they do not agree, the sources

to build a new Jewish neighbourhood in the area, Nabi Ya'acoub is located eight kilometres

north of the nearest Jewish neighbourhood of French Hill. The new suburb will virtually complete the encirclement of the Arab areas of Jerusalem by new Jewish suburbs.

"Arabs will also be allowed to build on part of the area, which at the moment is a green belt where all construction is banned," a West Jerusalem municipality spokesman said.

West Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek complained that the expropriation, apparently unaccompanied by budget allocations for development, was "not only unproductive, but causes us difficulties" by besmirching Israel's image abroad.

"We have had no official notification of the expropriation and so we don't know which plan the government is working to," the municipality spokesman said.

The finance ministry sources said the decision would only be officially announced in a few days.

"This is a massive plan and involves huge sums of money. We can only wonder at the government's claim not to have any money. We also protest that the government did not involve the municipality in the decision which is ill-timed and will cause the city propaganda damage and put even more pressure on us," the spokesman said.

Housing Minister David Levy claimed that the area was being built by Arab building forming a wedge between Nabi Ya'acoub and the northern end of the city, and

the closest Jewish neighbourhoods to the south.

The cabinet reportedly designated Mr. Levy, Attorney-general Yitzhak Zamir and Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz to examine the matter.

The idea of building of settlements south of Nabi Ya'acoub was originally raised under the last Labour government by the then housing minister, the late Avraham Ofer, who proposed building 10,000 housing units between Nabi Ya'acoub and French Hill. The proposal involved a vast tract, some 15,000-20,000 dunums on the fringe of the West Bank to the east of the Arab villages of Beit Hanina and Shu'fat.

The development would have sealed off the largest gap in the Israeli presence on Arab Jerusalem's periphery.

The municipality objected on the grounds that the area was designated in the just-completed master plan for Jerusalem as a landscape preservation zone which was to remain unbuild.

West Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek also objected on the grounds that the land to be expropriated was owned by Jerusalem Arabs, and that expropriation would unduly exacerbate tensions.

He expressed the hope that no more Arab land in the city would be expropriated.

But a retreat from this position is reflected in the new outline plan for Jerusalem by the District Planning Commission.

The area is designated as "reserved for building purposes" in the outline plan, which is a legally binding document, unlike the master plan. Both plans were drawn up by the same team.

According to West Jerusalem municipality sources, the change was made under pressure from the interior and housing ministries and from the Likud faction on the municipal council.

Although the municipality's objections on planning grounds have receded, the question of expropriation remains a major factor.

Municipal sources expressed doubt last night that the government would be willing to face the international political storm that expropriation would certainly evoke.

Israel claims all Jerusalem is part of Israel, a claim not recognised by any other country in the world. After 1967, East Jerusalem was officially annexed by Israel.

One of the main points of difference between Israel on one side and Egypt and U.S. on the other in the current talks on Palestinian autonomy regards the status of Arab residents of East Jerusalem.

Egypt says they are part of the West Bank and should be allowed to vote in elections for the autonomous Palestinian council which will eventually emerge. But Israel says these 10,000 people are citizens of the state of Israel.

Mugabe names cabinet

SALISBURY, March 11 (R)—Prime Minister-designate Robert Mugabe today named his first cabinet of an independent Zimbabwe, presenting British Governor Lord Soames with a government list dominated by his former guerrilla followers but including veteran nationalist Joshua Nkomo and two whites.

Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union—Patriotic Front) took the main portfolios of prime minister, deputy prime minister, defence and foreign affairs, but leaving Mr. Nkomo the powerful portfolio of home affairs (interior ministry).

Mr. Mugabe's spokesman, Mr. Eddison Zvobgo, named the two whites as Former Finance Minister David Smith, who takes the commerce and industry ministry, and Mr. Dennis Norman, the chairman of the commercial farmers union, who was appointed agriculture minister.

Mr. Mugabe himself, confirmed by Lord Soames as Zimbabwe's prime minister, is also defence minister while his wartime deputy, Mr. Simon Muzenda, becomes deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Other senior positions went to Mr. Mugabe's wartime lieutenants, including Mr. Edgar Tekere, who is now planning and developing minister, and Mr. Enos Nkala, who is now finance minister.

Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Muzenda met Lord Soames today and the British governor "formally appointed Mr. Mugabe the prime minister of Zimbabwe," a British spokesman said. He will accede to the powers of his office at independence in Britain's last African colony later this month or early in April.



Since 1967, Israel has built a string of Jewish settlements virtually to encircle Arab East Jerusalem. (Gamma Photo)

Giscard's tour marks French, European shift towards Arabs

PARIS, March 11 (R)—President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's six-day tour of the Middle East, which ended last night, marked a significant shift by France and its European partners towards Arab demands for a settlement with Israel.

With his usual panache, the French president broke fresh diplomatic ground at the start of his tour by endorsing in Kuwait the principle of Palestinian self-determination within the framework of an overall peace agreement.

He ended on a similarly spectacular note, declaring at a state banquet in Amman that the Palestine Liberation Organisation must play a part in peace negotiations.

Although the statements came from the leader of France, the most overtly pro-Arab of the major western powers, the signs were that other Common Market countries were "in concordance," as French officials put it, with his position.

The president's call for Palestinian self-determination on March 3 was quickly backed by the West German and British governments.

On PLO participation in peace negotiations, France also appeared to be heralding change within the European Community.

Israel has always adamantly refused to talk with the PLO, which it says is a terrorist group dedicated to destroying the Zionist state.

European diplomats in Brussels said last week the EEC was weighing the possibility of formally recognising the organisation.

So it appeared that the president was not just speaking for France when he said in Amman "all the parties (to the Arab

Israeli dispute) must be associated with the negotiation and in particular the Palestinian people, which implies the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

He said a global settlement must enshrine the right of every state in the region to live in peace within secure, recognised and guaranteed frontiers.

"France knows the legitimate concern of the state of Israel on this question," he declared.

But, he said Israel must recognise that its occupation of Arab territories captured in 1967 prevented it from establishing peaceful relations with its neighbours.

Diplomatic sources thought the next step might have to wait until after May 26, the deadline set by the U.S.-sponsored Camp David agreements for an Israeli-Egyptian accord on Palestinian rights.

Inevitably, the president's trip has won for France enormous political capital with the Arab

World, and substantial commercial benefits as well.

The Franco-Kuwaiti communiqué which first publicised French endorsement of Palestinian self-determination also outlined two bilateral trade agreements, one of them highly significant.

The Kuwaitis sold France 4.6 million tonnes of oil via multinational companies last year. Now they have agreed to supply the oil directly to French firms.

In Doha, the joint communiqué spoke of cooperation in the exploitation of Qatar's enormous natural gas deposits.

After Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Abu Dhabi, a senior official said the UAE would provide France with all the oil it asked for.

French arms salesmen can also hope to reap a rich harvest in the Gulf area, where leaders have been greatly concerned about security since the Iranian revolution and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan last December.

Assad accuses U.S. of arming terrorists

DAMASCUS, March 11 (Agencies)—President Hafez Al Assad, a bitter opponent of the American-sponsored Camp David peace accords, today accused the United States of arming the terrorists plaguing Syria.

Speaking to an extraordinary meeting of the Syrian Handicrafts Congress here, President Assad said Washington and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency were "forming terrorist agents and supplying them with means of destruction and murder inside Syria."

In the Beirut, travellers claimed the Syrian army and air force moved into Aleppo, Hama and other areas in the past 10 days to put down anti-government riots and curfews were imposed for four days.

A government spokesman in Damascus said these reports were exaggerated and denied that any curfew has been imposed in any Syrian city.

The spokesman accused "reactionaries" of attempting "economic sabotage" in Hama and Aleppo to protest two new year decrees that boosted workers wages in Syria by 75 per cent and curtailed employers' profits.

President Assad has made five speeches since March 7 and last night the government announced it will supply arms to the 500,000 peasants to help combat the terrorists.

A statement released after a one-day emergency congress of

the General Federation of Syrian Peasants where President Assad was chief speaker, said arms would be issued to peasants to hunt down reactionaries and saboteurs.

"The peasants will exercise the role of liquidating gangs of reaction, killers and saboteurs," the statement said.

It followed a similar announcement on Sunday by the General Federation of Trade Unions.

The president of the peasants federation, Mr. Mustafa Abed, told delegates: "More than 500,000 peasants are fully prepared to take up arms in order to liquidate reactionary gangs." He said the establishment of "armed battalions" had already begun but gave no details.

The decision to establish peoples militias came against the background of a long series of assassinations and acts of violence, blamed on fanatical members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Government sources said yesterday security forces had killed a leading member of the Brotherhood, named as Bassam Arna'oot in a clash in the city of Hama, north of here last week.

Violence in Syria reached a bloody climax last summer when troops under the command of a dissident officer moved down more than 60 cadets in the assembly hall of the military academy of Aleppo, in northern Syria.

Pakistan denies coup attempt

ISLAMABAD, March 11 (AP) — Pakistani government officials said today there was no truth to a report that there had been an attempted coup in Pakistan last week. They described the report as "absurd." The report had alleged that Lt. Gen. Iqbal Khan, deputy chief of the army staff, had been arrested. This was denied by the officials. An official announcement said Gen. Iqbal will leave tomorrow for a one-day trip to visit some army units. The report also had named a retired infantry officer, Maj. Gen. Tajammul Hussain, as leader of the alleged coup. The Pakistan government has not said whether Gen. Hussain was arrested. In London, an Urdu-language newspaper that supported executed Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan claimed today that senior army officers staged an unsuccessful effort to overthrow Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq. A spokesman at the Pakistan embassy in London denied the report. The Pakistan embassy in Washington called the report a "fabrication" and said there had been no coup attempt and no arrests of officers.

Faisal to gain access to U.S. hostages
U.N. Iran commission
leaves Tehran abruptly

TEHRAN, March 11 (Agencies) — A United Nations commission investigating Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah made an abrupt departure from Tehran today after failing to gain access to 49 Americans held hostage at the U.S. embassy here.

But both U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said they believed the five-man team of international jurists would eventually return to continue its mission.

Although the commission's decision to cut short its visit caused gloom in the White House, the U.S. was reported willing to continue its policy of restraint in dealings with Iran.

White House officials said Washington still looked to the United Nations to resolve the crisis over the hostages, who were seized last Nov. 4 when students occupied the U.S. embassy.

The state department said Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the U.N. commission will meet shortly to discuss next steps in the 129-day-old hostage crisis.

Spokesman Hodding Carter refused to rule out some unilateral

action by the United States even before Mr. Vance meets the commission. But he said: "At this point, this government believes that the situation requires first watchful waiting. It is clearly very serious."

The spokesman declined to predict any specific step but indicated that military action such as a naval blockade of Iran's ports was not being considered at this time.

The five commissioners flew to Zurich and four of them went on the Geneva, site of the U.N.'s European headquarters.

Co-chairman Mohammad Badaoui of Algeria planned to catch a plane for New York to report to Dr. Waldheim.

He told reporters that the commission had been working under very difficult conditions and the members had not slept for two nights.

Asked whether the mission was a failure, Mr. Badaoui said "it was not a failure. It was one step."

Before leaving Tehran the commission announced that it would not now be presenting a report on its investigations. A spokesman said the commission believed it imperative in the light of recent developments to return to New York for consultations with Dr. Waldheim.

The U.N. mission was sent to Iran with a dual brief to investigate the Shah's alleged crimes and visit all 49 captive Americans.

The mission broke down yesterday when revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini decreed that the U.N. team must issue a report on its findings in Tehran before it could visit the Americans.

The commission spokesman said today the commission regarded its dual brief as indivisible.

Mr. Qotbzadeh, who had earlier spent three hours with the commission members in an attempt to persuade them to extend their stay, was at the airport to see them

off. After the commission had left for New York via Geneva, Mr. Qotbzadeh told reporters: "With a little patience they would have accomplished the rest of their mandate."

He added: "As soon as the situation is right they will come back. We've done our best to solve the problem."

In New York, Dr. Waldheim confirmed that the commission would not immediately make public its findings, but added he expected the team to return to Iran later.

He said he would see the five commission members tomorrow and then decide how to proceed. The hostages' student captors tightened security precautions at the occupied embassy during the commission's stay, sources close to the students said today.

The hostages were unaware of the sudden possibility of their transfer into government custody, proposed by the students because they could not accept a decision by the ruling Revolutionary Council that the commission should see all the hostages. The transfer plan has now been scrapped.

Little is known for certain about the conditions in which the hostages are kept. But sources close to the students said that the captives are held under differing degrees of surveillance.

About eight diplomats, considered by the students to have committed acts of espionage, are held individually under close watch. They are allowed selected books and little exercise, the sources said.

Fifteen to twenty Americans, kept together in more relaxed conditions, can cook and read books and magazines.

The two women hostages are held separately from the others and are looked after by female students, while the remainder of the captives are kept in small groups, the sources said.

Deposed Shah seriously ill, needs 'hazardous' operation

NEW YORK, March 11 (R) — The deposed Shah of Iran is again seriously ill and requires an operation that can be classified as hazardous, a spokesman for his doctor said here today. In a statement, the spokesman for Dr. Benjamin Kean said the Shah, now in Panama, has an enlarged spleen, severe anaemia and leucopenia (low white cell count), probably associated with a tumour in the spleen.

The statement said Dr. Kean, professor of medicine at New York's Cornell University medical college, went to Panama within the past week to see the 60-year-old Shah, together with Dr. George Flandrin, who has been responsible for the Shah's tumour care for six years.

In consultation with Panamanian physicians they decided that an operation to remove the spleen was necessary. "Dr. Kean classifies the Shah's illness as serious and the operation as hazardous," the statement said. "Arrangements for the operation are in progress."

For security reasons, the statement said, no information would be given concerning the hospital where the operation would take place. Spokesman Robert Armao refused to confirm or deny a report that the Carter administration had refused permission for a U.S. military hospital in the Panama Canal zone to be used, saying the former Shah could receive adequate treatment at Panama City's Paitilla Hospital. But an informed source said the Shah would not return to the United States for treatment.

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Austrian vice-chancellor meets King Hussein, PM, Ali Nsour

AMMAN, March 11 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein received at the royal court this afternoon visiting Austrian vice-chancellor and Minister of Finance Hannes Androsch. During the audience they reviewed friendly Jordanian-Austrian relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Later Mr. Androsch called on the Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf.

Mr. Androsch also held talks today with the Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Nsour. They discussed the promotion of bilateral trade, possible joint economic ventures and Austrian contributions to Jordanian development projects. Also taking part in the meeting were Under-secretary

of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Hashem Dabbas, a number of senior ministry officials and the delegation accompanying the Austrian minister.

The Austrian delegation, which arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit to Jordan, also visited the National Planning Council and met with its president, Dr. Hanna Odeh. The delegation was briefed on Jordan's development strategy, which aims at boosting production capacity.

The delegation later visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its Director General, Dr. Albert Butros. The delegation was briefed on the growth of the RSS and its role in Jordan's economic development.



His Majesty King Hussein greets Austrian vice-chancellor and Minister of Finance Hannes Androsch.

Government-supplied milk arrives in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 11 --About 60,000 cans of government-supplied powdered milk have arrived here and will be distributed to local grocers tomorrow or Thursday, the Minister of Supply, Dr. Jawad Anani, told the Jordan Times tonight.

The milk is now undergoing routine quality control tests. This is the first shipment of a total of 582,000 cans purchased by the government from two Dutch firms for resale at low cost. The order was made to end Jordan's powdered milk shortage, and the full shipment is considered enough to meet Jordan's needs for one year.

Under an arrangement with the Dutch firms, the milk will carry Jordan's own brand name, "Our Milk". However, because of the urgency of the order there was not enough time to label the cans in this first shipment. Thus they will bear the brand name "Morley Milk" instead.

Yesterday another brand of milk, one from Czechoslovakia labelled "BraMilk", entered the market and consumers immediately began to hoard the supply. To control panic buying, the



Dr. Jawad Anani

Ministry of Supply asked all grocers to limit sales of milk to one can only for each buyer. "BraMilk" supplied by a local importer, is selling for JD 1.270 for a 2,240 gramme can, whereas the more costly government supplied milk will sell for JD 1.200 for a 1,800 gramme can.

Dr. Anani pointed out the Czechoslovak milk is not instant like the Dutch milk. It must be heated in dilute form and allowed to set before more powder can be added to raise the concentration.

Connally's exit

MR. JOHN Connally's withdrawal from contention for the Republican nomination in the American presidential election campaign marks the departure of probably the only presidential candidate who has ever dared to take an anti-Israeli position. The Middle East policy statement Mr. Connally made in October called for an Israeli military withdrawal from all occupied territories, the removal of Jewish settlements from those territories and self-determination for the Palestinians; less constructively, and much more consistent with the former Texas governor's generally hawkish and right-wing views, he also suggested a "military alliance" in the Middle East linking the United States with Israel and Egypt and "moderate" Arab states.

Still, the concept of an American presidential candidate who was actually sympathetic with the Arab position and critical of Israel, who had travelled and worked in the Middle East (as an oil company lawyer) and who had taken advice from prominent Arabs in the drafting of his Middle East policy, was a novelty quite naturally cultivated by Arabs who look to American leadership for help in realising their desire for peace and justice. In that respect, Mr. Connally's departure is regrettable, although such was the future stirred by his policy statement that he had chosen to downplay Middle East issues later on in his campaign.

Normally, these issues do not play all that prominent a part in the American electorate's conscious support for this candidate or that. They do impinge on the American electoral process, however, in the shape of the tactical and financial support which Israel and its well-heeled and well-organised backers in the U.S. can and do mobilise in favour of candidates who take the "right" line on Israel.

Far from being the spent force which some Arabs seem increasingly to consider it, the Zionist lobby in the U.S. appears to be as strong this year as in years past. If anything, the case of Afghanistan has given Israel and its supporters a new excuse to portray Israel as "the only bulwark against Soviet penetration of the Middle East" and as a vital strategic outpost for the United States. Afghanistan and the oil issue have likewise given the Middle East -- and foreign policy considerations generally -- greater prominence in this election (for all the clamour about foreign affairs, American elections are usually decided mainly on domestic, and particularly economic, issues).

The link between oil and Palestine, which Mr. Connally sought to make, has been overshadowed by concern -- encouraged by the Israeli lobby -- about a link between "oil and Afghanistan."

The candidates to whom Mr. Connally has left the battle for the Republican nomination are uniformly hawkish on Afghanistan and militantly pro-Israeli. On the Democratic side, President Carter is of course deeply committed to the Camp David accords and openly hostile to the notion of Palestinian self-determination; his turnabout on the U.N. settlements vote has demonstrated his capacity for manipulation by the Israeli lobby. His rival, Senator Edward Kennedy, is the most vocally pro-Israeli candidate of either party; his versions of Israel's "security" requirements and settlement policies are straight out of Mr. Begin's book.

Such a prospect, plus the impending deadline in the Camp David "autonomy" negotiations, bring into serious question the habitual Arab tendency to settle for total paralysis in the search for a Middle East solution during an American presidential election year. Clearly efforts to impress upon Americans the relationship between true Middle East peace and stability and American national security concerns, between petroleum (production and pricing) and Palestine, have failed. So, apparently have efforts to stir any latent American popular sympathy for Arab justice and human rights as against Israeli militarism and expansionism.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: No doubt the Jordanian-French joint communique is the end result of extensive analysis of the situation in the region and the product of a joint vision of the principles of a comprehensive settlement and the manner to achieve it. Thus, the joint communique has put forward the alternative to the Camp David process and refuted the allegations that the Arab opposition has not submitted an alternative.

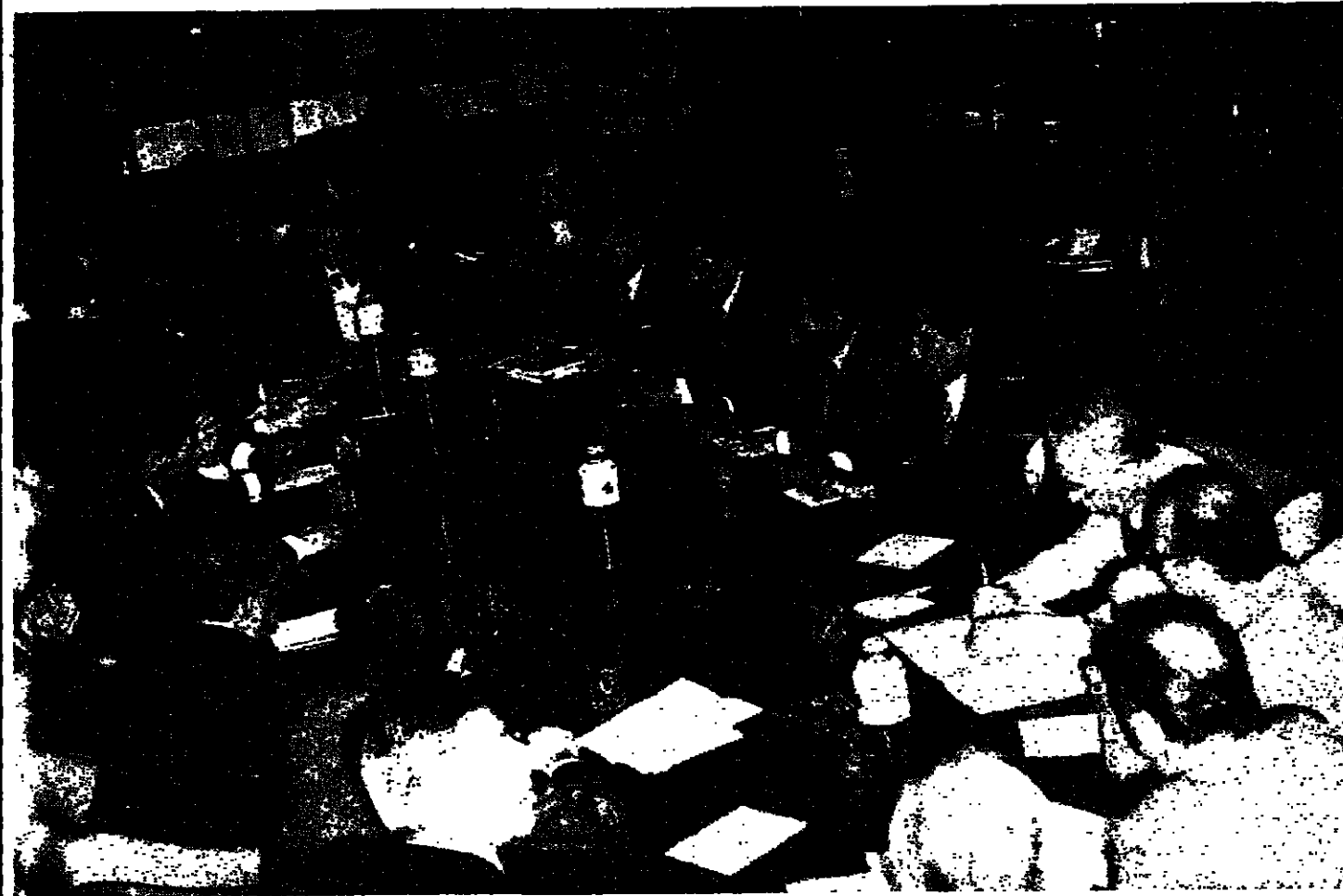
Therefore, the Camp David parties, especially Egypt and the U.S., are now being tested before the whole world and can no longer overlook the alternative contained in the Jordanian-French joint communique. Nor can they find any excuse for continuing the autonomy talks with Israel.

The European group is called upon now to adopt the alternative provided by the Jordanian-French communique with all its principles and the means of achievement it implies, in order to get the issue back under the U.N. umbrella and to start the implementation process to attain the desired settlement and genuine peace in the region.

AL DUSTOUR: The Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, spoke at the National Consultative Council meeting on Monday about the necessity to undertake painful measures if this country is to live within its resources, achieve soundness and equilibrium in its national economy and eliminate inflation. These painful measures should not be felt by those with limited incomes who have suffered enough, but by the well-to-do and those living in ease and luxury—who have set a bad example by their foolishness and excess.

The legislation which will be introduced by the government to check imports and control high prices and inflation should aim at the same time to achieve social justice and reduce disparities among the classes as much as possible.

The NCC members have put forward specific suggestions which coincide with the government's views; but what remains is to translate these proposals promptly into a comprehensive and integrated work plan, in which both the government and the people play their roles and bear their responsibilities.



The Austrian delegation talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Nsour and other Jordanian officials.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, March 11 (JT) — The King Hussein Bridge over the Jordan River is now open for travellers to and from the occupied West Bank, a spokesman for the Public Security Directorate said today. The bridge was closed last week because of the rising level of water in the river. The other bridge across the Jordan, the Prince Mohammad Bridge, was reopened a few days ago.

AMMAN, March 11 (JNA) — A two-week clean-up campaign will be carried out by the Amman Municipality starting tomorrow. A municipality spokesman said teams will be cleaning squares and streets in Amman and repair crews will continue to mend roads that have been severely damaged by snow and rain. According to the spokesman, the campaign will commence in Jabal Al Akhdar and Nazzal quarter, west of the city.

AJLOUN, March 11 (JNA) — Minister of Social Development In'am Mufti today visited the women teachers' training institute here and met with its staff and trainees. She said her ministry will be giving special attention to the needs of children, particularly handicapped ones and those coming from poor families. She also spoke about the role of working women in the Jordanian society.

AMMAN, March 11 (JNA) — A special committee formed by the Union of Arab Universities (UAU), concluding a three-day meeting in Amman last night, issued a recommendation urging Arab universities to increase their share of the UAU budget and endorsed a \$280,000 budget for the next three years. It also recommended that inter-university seminars in specialised disciplines be held, and called on universities to encourage close contacts among students of Arab universities. Recommendations will be referred to the UAU federal council, which is due to convene in Medina, Saudi Arabia in May.

Algerian education team confers with officials here

AMMAN, March 11 (JNA) — A visiting Algerian education delegation yesterday held talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Education aimed at increasing cooperation between Algeria and Jordan in educational matters.

Among topics discussed were Algeria's need for Jordanian teachers to work on secondment from the Jordanian Ministry of Education. The officials also discussed a plan for implementing a bilateral cultural agreement and the exchange of scholarships for students and visits by education officials.

The delegation, led by the

Under-secretary of the Algerian Ministry of Education, Sharif Al Haj Suleiman, arrived in Amman earlier yesterday for a several day visit to Jordan. The President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Nasreddin Al Assad, discussed with the Algerian delegation, possibilities of cooperation and exchange of scientific expertise between the University of Jordan and the Algerian universities.

Dr. Assad explained to the delegation the university's accomplishments, programmes and future plans.

Also yesterday, the delegation visited the Amman polytechnic school.

The committee is composed of representatives of five Arab universities in Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Kuwait.

AMMAN, March 11 (JNA) — The Amman Municipality announced today that it has prepared a special programme for the occasion of Arab Cities Day, which falls on March 15. The Birds' Garden in Shmeisani will also be open free to visitors on that day, a municipality spokesman said. He said Jordanian flags, along with flags of the Organisation of Arab Cities, will be flown in Amman.

AMMAN, March 11 (JT) — The visiting Director of Saudi Civil Defence, Maj. Gen. Kamal Sirajeddin, today called at the Public Security Directorate and was briefed on its activities by senior officers. Gen. Sirajeddin and his accompanying delegation later called at the royal police academy and the civil defence headquarters, where he officially presented the department with a total of 23 rescue and fire-fighting vehicles as a gift from Saudi Arabia. The vehicles arrived here almost 10 days ago, in time for use during the snowstorm. After the delegation's tour, it called on the Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf.



Saudi Arabia's civil defence chief, Maj. Gen. Kamal Sirajeddin, makes the official presentation of a Saudi gift of rescue and fire-fighting vehicles to Jordan.

NOTICE TO U.S. TAXPAYERS

As a special service to United States taxpayers in the Amman area, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Embassy will present a U.S. Tax Assistance Seminar at the American Centre (ICA) at 9:00 a.m. on March 16, 1980. Please bring all questions you may have pertaining to your U.S. taxes to the seminar.

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WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION SWAQA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT NOTICE TO CONSTRUCTION TENDERERS

The Water Supply Corporation wishes to inform interested construction tenderers that the closing date for the above named project has been extended June 1, 1980.

Director General
 Said Bino

RA grades aggregates from Jordan's quarries

Jordan Times Reporter

March 11 — A list of the mechanical properties of aggregates produced from 265 quarries made publicly available during a meeting of the Natural Resources (A) yesterday.

Aggregates which it is authorised to apply on Ministry of Public Works projects.

The BMR is acting as a technical arm of the NRA by enforcing its quality standards. In the past two years it has made three rounds of all the quarries in Jordan on random visits.

Aggregates produced by the quarries have been tested by the BMR for their strength, grading, physical properties, specific gravity and water absorption.

Dr. Kafkha said that the BMR has started its fourth round of quality control samplings and that the results of the third round will be published soon.

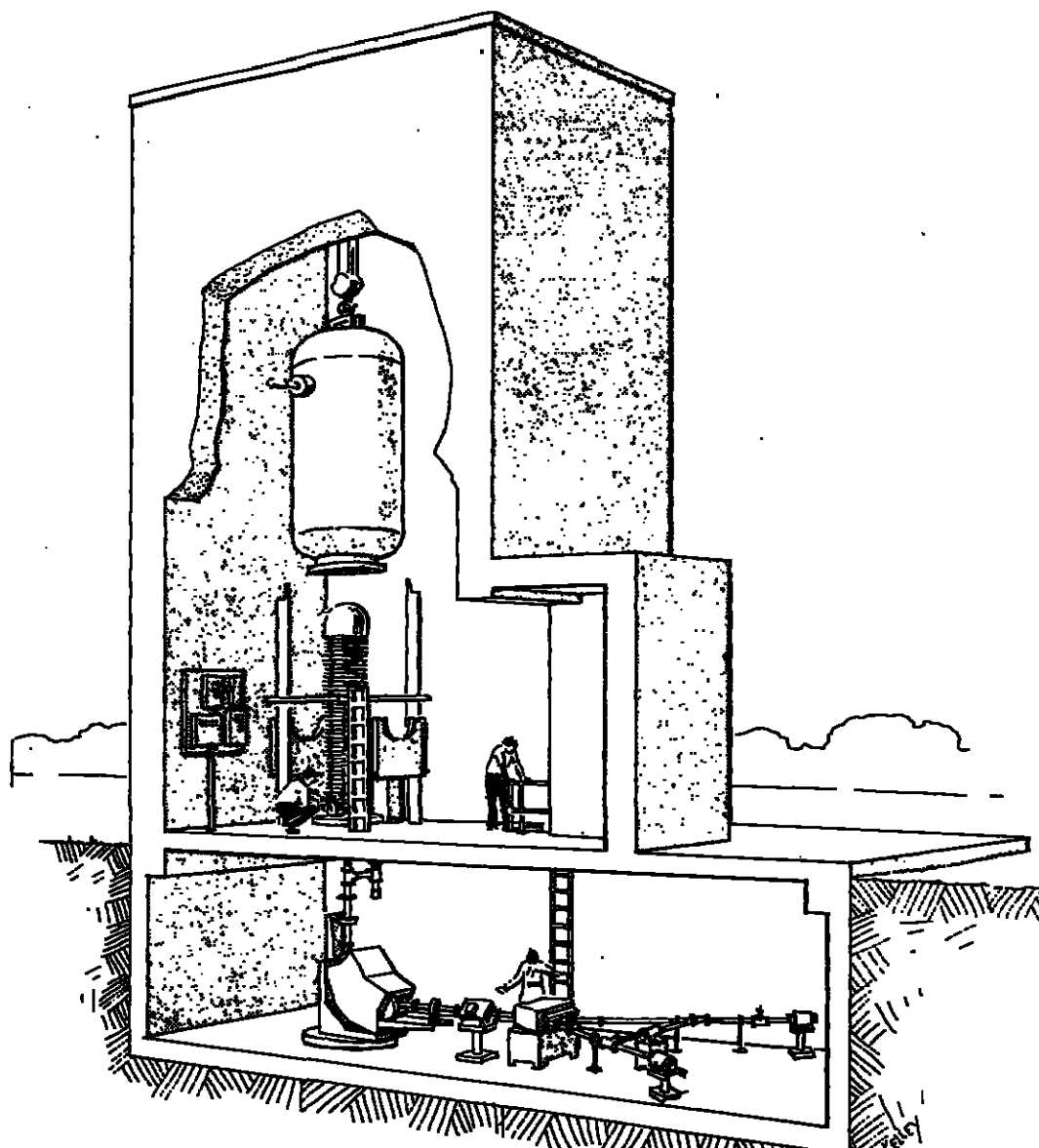
He added that the department is working to produce a classification of quarries according to the quality of their products.

Aggregates will be classed A, B, C or D, and the NRA will require each quarry to post a board at its entrance giving the assigned classification of its aggregate.

At yesterday's meeting, ways of enhancing the quality of aggregates quarried here, particularly through the improvement of quarrying methods were also discussed. Ways of dealing with quarries whose aggregates fail to meet standards were proposed. "Fortunately," Dr. Kafkha said, "the number of quarries failing to meet the requirements of NRA quality standards has decreased" during the two years in which quality control testing has been in effect.

Aggregates are mostly used in Jordan in concrete buildings and in paving roads.

German nuclear physicist trains U of J staff on accelerator techniques



A scale model of the five million electron Volt Van de Graaff accelerator which the University of Jordan has received but which has yet to be set up.

Prof. Klaus Bethge will be giving talks on accelerator techniques to the staff of the Physics Department at the university because he believes they must be involved in the project from the beginning.

By Fawzia Mai
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 11 — Currently on a lecture tour through Syria, Jordan and Kuwait sponsored by the Goethe Institute, Prof. Klaus Bethge, one of the most eminent nuclear physicists in West Germany, is also training the staff of the Physics Department at the University of Jordan in accelerator techniques during his ten-day stay here.

Prof. Bethge started his lecture series at the University of Jordan on Sunday, March 9 with a brief look at a very wide topic, the "Applications of Nuclear Methods." On Monday, a very specialised topic, that of "Atomic Physics of Inner Shells" was delivered to an audience mainly made up of staff members of the Physics Department. His lectures on the next two days cover the "Techniques of Measurement of Particles and Electromagnetic Radiation" and "Nuclear Power Plants". Saturday's lecture, which should appeal to a broad audience, will highlight the German contribution to nuclear physics.

Apart from his lectures, Prof. Bethge is also here for another reason. A Van de Graaff accelerator donated by the German ministry of economic cooperation and overseas development which arrived at the university in mid-1978 before the completion of the Physics Department building is still sitting in its dusty boxes. It has yet to be unpacked, checked and assembled and this requires the help of an engineer from the

manufacturer, in this case and American one. "However," stresses Prof. Bethge, "the local staff must be involved in the project from the beginning if it is to progress smoothly." He will therefore give talks on accelerator techniques to the staff of the Physics Department as well as post-graduate students training for their master's degrees. Prof. Bethge reckoned there are at least four qualified people who will be able to handle the accelerator. If all goes well, the accelerator should be put into use before the end of 1980.

An accelerator is an expensive and sophisticated instrument that will "enable the faculty to establish graduate programmes (leading to a Ph.D.) since these involve research work that include such fields as basic atomic physics, applied nuclear physics, materials research, environmental studies, and analysis of geological, biological and medical samples," Prof. Bethge says. But the adds that these very wide fields will naturally need more sophisticated instruments that will have to be acquired as the need arises.

Moreover, Prof. Bethge explained that if there is cooperation between the Physics Department with the Medical Faculty, nuclear medicine could get a start in Jordan. "Accelerated proton beams," Prof. Bethge explains, "can excite characteristic X-rays of different elements in cells." For one thing, the accelerator would be able to carry out trace analysis of radioactive substances in cells.

Prof. Bethge finds the department well-equipped for teaching up to the B.Sc. level, but research-oriented projects are yet in their infancy and are basically application-oriented. The department has already embarked on X-ray analysis of different elements in mechanical probes, and biological and geological samples. In the future, this could be done with an accelerator. In the near future the staff is also planning on more solid state physical experiments with low temperature.



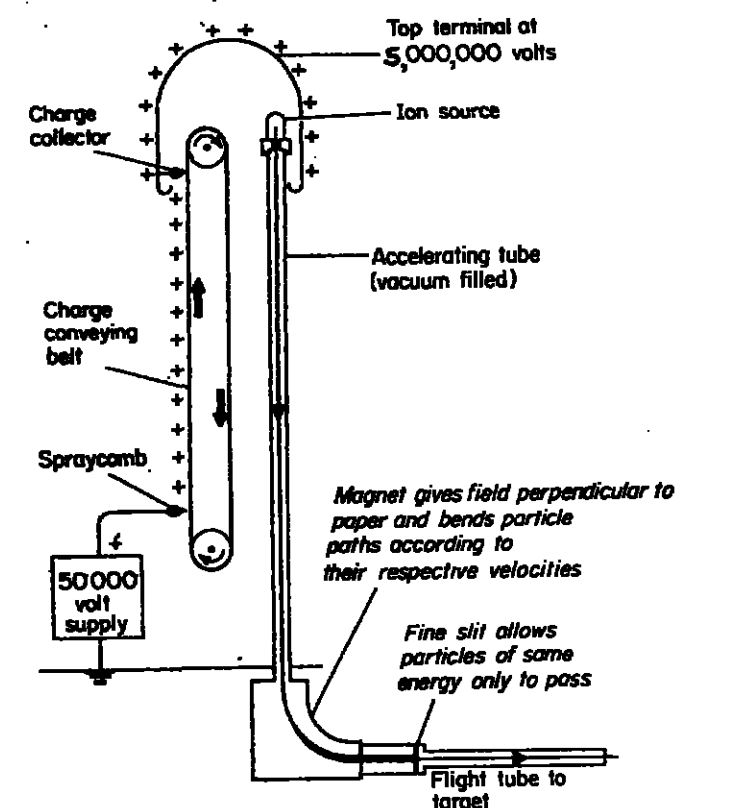
Dr. Klaus Bethge

Prof. Bethge noticed that here at the University of Jordan there is a devotion to physics that is totally lacking in Damascus University. It would be a good idea to set up some kind of cooperation between both universities so that graduates from Damascus could come to Jordan for post-graduate studies because there is no post-graduate education in physics in Damascus University nor is there any equipment for research work.

Consequently no research is ever carried out and the faculty are completely out of touch with present-day physics.

Prof. Bethge was born in Berlin 1931 and finished school in the Soviet zone of Berlin. He obtained his B.Sc. in Physics in the West Berlin. Then moved to Heidelberg University where he took his diploma and doctorate as well as his "Habilitation", a qualification for teaching at university level. He subsequently worked for two years as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States. He returned to Heidelberg as the deputy director of the Physics Institute, then in 1974 joined Frankfurt University as professor and is still head of the Nuclear Physics Department there.

His present lecture tour is the fourth he is carrying out on behalf of the Goethe Institute. The previous ones took him twice to India and Pakistan and once to Nigeria and Ghana. After his five days in Damascus and his ten days in Amman, he will spend four days in Kuwait before rounding up his trip.



A Van de Graaff particle accelerator (insulating support and pressure vessel not shown).

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Tahsin Sabbagh
General Manager

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co.	JD 5,000	10	6,890	6,890	6,890
Jordan Dairy Co.	JD 1,000	1000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	150	2,780	2,780	2,780
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	1115	12,890	13,000	13,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	2970	1,650	1,650	1,650
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	1000	2,010	2,010	2,010
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	235	2,350	2,300	2,300
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	350	1,480	1,480	1,480
Petra Bank	JD 10,000	100	16,300	16,300	16,300
Cairo-Amman Bank	JD 5,000	510	15,250	14,600	15,000
Jordan Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	113	12,750	12,750	12,750
Jordanian Co. for Timber Industry and Trade	JD 1,000	300	1,050	1,050	1,050
Dar Al Dave Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	160	4,400	4,360	4,400
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	1020	1,010	1,010	1,010
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	1830	3,400	3,400	3,400
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	36	29,150	29,150	29,150
Arab company for Aluminium Industries	JD 1,000	200	1,670	1,670	1,670
Arabian Construction and Investment	JD 1,000	13650	1,070	1,070	1,070
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	228	21,200	21,200	21,200
Jordan Ceramic Industries Co.	JD 1,000	250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Jordan Glass Factories Co.	JD 1,000	2950	1,000	1,000	1,000
Jordan Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	50	0,890	0,890	0,890
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	1383	3,600	3,550	3,550
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	800	2,550	2,550	2,550
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	782	10,350	10,300	10,300
National Steel Industry	JD 10,000	100	15,500	15,500	15,500

Total volume traded on Tuesday, March 11, 1980: JD 81,869

Total number of shares traded: 30,392

Government Development Bonds

Year Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1988	JD 10,000	269	2706	10,060	10,060

DAY'S CATHER

try will be affected by depression centred key, associated with a cloudy day. It will be cloudy to sunny, with scattered showers in the northern regions. A remarkable temperature will occur, moderate to fresh gabs, it will be partly cloudy to moderate calm seas.

Overnight	Daytime
low	high
5	14
10	21
5	16
9	20

LOCAL CHANGE RATES

300.00/302.00
665.40/669.40
an mark 165.70/166.70
172.90/173.90
70.90/71.50
35.80/36.00
121.10/121.80
151.10/153.00
69.90/70.30
102.00/102.60

Ali to fight a 'tune-up' bout before Tate

NEW YORK, March 11 (R) — Muhammad Ali, apparently having second thoughts about fighting World Boxing Association heavyweight champion John Tate in his first comeback bout, may return to the ring against journeyman Scott Ledoux instead.

Harold Smith, executive director of Muhammad Ali Sports Productions, the former champion's own promotional firm, said last night Ali had told him he wanted to fight a "tune-up" bout against Ledoux before meeting Tate.

In a telephone interview from Santa Monica, California, Smith said Ledoux had agreed to the fight. Smith said the bout would be promoted by Muhammad Ali Sports, which promoted Ledoux's last three fights. He added that the fight probably would be held in Bloomington, Minnesota, in mid-June.

If the fight does come off, it would disrupt announced plans by promoter Bob Arum to stage an Ali-Tate title fight in June. Arum has said he would offer Ali and Tate seven million dollars each for such a bout, which Arum has said probably would be held in Taiwan.

"I talked to Ali and he told me he wanted to fight Ledoux in June," Smith said. "After that, he may fight another tune-up before taking on Tate." An Ali-Tate fight would hinge on whether Tate retains his title against Mike Weaver on March 31 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Ali apparently decided on Ledoux as an opponent after watching the 31-year-old Minneapolis heavyweight score a unanimous, albeit not impressive, decision over Marty Monroe yesterday, a plodding fighter who relies more on guile than punching prowess. Ledoux has been knocked out by Duane Bobick, once a promising heavyweight, and George Foreman.

However, Ledoux earned a berth in the top-10 rankings when he drew with former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Ken Norton last August. Since that fight, Ledoux has dropped a decision to Weaver and beaten the previously-unbeaten Monroe.

Australia loses potency in Cricket test

FAISALBAD, Pakistan, March 11, (R)—The second Pakistan-Australia cricket test petered out in a draw today, with the Pakis-

tanis, in turn, scoring runs almost at will on a double wicket. Australia, who lost the first test, must win the third and final match to square the series.

Today no bowler managed to take a wicket but Zaheer Abbas was run out for 19 after helping the opening batsman Taslim Arif in a stand of 72 for the second wicket. Captain Javed Miandad then joined Taslim and the close they put on 223 runs taking the total to 382. Australia underlined the farcical nature of the play by using all 11 players as bowlers. Captain Greg Chappel took over behind the wicket when Graham Marsh bowled. March's 10 overs cost 51 runs.

Taslim reached his 200 and Miandad his century in the final minutes.

Chess championship continues bitter

VELDEN, Austria, March 11 (R) — Bitter chess rivals Viktor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian yesterday drew their adjourned first game of a world chess championship quarter-final match here after 70 moves. Korchnoi, a 49-year-old Soviet defector, offered Petrosian, 51, Soviet world chess champion from 1963-1969, a draw after two hours and 27 minutes of play. Korchnoi refused to speak to Petrosian directly but went up to British chief referee Harry Golombek to tell him of the decision, which was accepted. The two players, who have drawn twice, will meet today for their third game when Korchnoi will make the first

move playing under a new ruling by the World Chess Federation that contestants can play an unlimited number of games to decide the winner instead of the previous 14 games maximum.



World champion Kurt Thomas pictured on the horizontal bars as he won the American cup gymnastic championship. Thomas scored a perfect 10, never before awarded.

Iran to quintuple gas prices

KUWAIT, March 11 (Agencies)—Iranian oil minister Ali Akbar Moinefar was quoted by Tehran Radio as saying yesterday that expects the price of Iran's crude oil to reach \$40 a barrel by the end of the current year. Iran now sells its light crude at about \$8 per barrel, the highest of all gulf oil producers.

Moinefar said Iran's daily production throughout 1980 will be limited to 3 million barrels—one million barrels for domestic consumption and two million for export. He added that Iran's short-term type, not exceeding one year.

Moinefar said that a Soviet team arrived in Tehran for negotiations of Iranian-Soviet talks on a number of suspended oil contracts including prices of natural gas exported to the Soviet Union. He said Iran will insist on its demand for increasing the price of gas five fold. The Shah's regime had sold Iranian gas to the Russians at very low prices to ensure their silence, he alleged.

Production in the last Iranian month, ending February, dropped to 2.7 million barrels a day from the three million a day average which the government is targeting for 1980.

Meanwhile in Doha, Qatar has no plans to increase crude production over its current average rate of 500,000 barrels a day, oil minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Thani said yesterday. Oil crude oil, which is being sold at the official OPEC price of \$27 a barrel, is being resold in Rotterdam or Japanese markets for \$30-40 a barrel. This means the oil companies earn up to \$3 a barrel of oil, the minister added.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said the U.S. dollar was the best currency for oil payments for the high interest rates it attracts, but an alternative should always be ready to safeguard OPEC interests if these rates drop.

Earlier, oil minister Sheikh Ali Al-Sabah of Kuwait denied Kuwait was demanding a premium of \$10 per barrel of Kuwaiti crude oil sold directly to Japanese importers. He said that representatives of Japanese companies were to arrive in Kuwait next week to discuss new contracts. He added that five-year contracts had been replaced with three-year contracts and all contracts exceeding six months have been cancelled, with quantities of crude oil involved treated as spot market sales.

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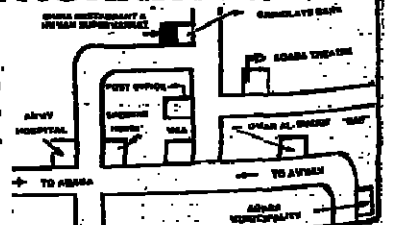
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هناك عدة مطاعم

Says Moscow Defence Ministry newspaper Soviet troops 'winning confidence' of Afghans

MOSCOW, March 11 (R)—Soviet troops in Afghanistan are winning the confidence of the people by providing medical and other social services and helping peasants and workers in their daily tasks, the Defence Ministry newspaper Red Star said today.

In a report from Hairhana, a village near Kabul, Red Star quoted officials of Afghanistan's Marxist ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) as saying the behaviour of Soviet soldiers was convincing Afghans that they had come to the country with good intentions.

The report, accompanied by two photographs showing smiling Afghans posing with Soviet tank troops, was the first detailed account to appear in the Moscow press of the activities of army units despatched to Afghanistan in December.

Although it made no reference to military action by the troops, the report appeared clearly aimed at countering Western radio accounts heard by millions of Russians saying that the presence of

Soviet forces was bitterly resented by Afghans.

The Red Star correspondent, Mr. Y. Gavrilov, said inhabitants of Hairhana had expressed deep gratitude to commanders of a locally based Soviet army unit for its assistance in improving living conditions there.

At the request of the local PDP organisation, he said, the unit's medical officers had set up a treatment tent for local people, while Soviet soldiers regularly visited the village boarding school taking presents for the children.

The soldiers had helped redecorate the school and gave concerts for the children, while at a Hairhana factory the had helped young workers set up a special room dedicated to Afghan-Soviet

friendship, the Red Star report added.

The unit's commander, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Morozov, and PDP officials had also prepared plans for troops and villagers to work together to plant trees, tidy up another factory and help peasants repair machinery for the coming spring sowing.

Afghan party workers had told him, the correspondent added, that efforts by "counter-revolutionary elements" to play on "the backwardness and immaturity of a part of the population" with slander on the Soviet troops were doomed to failure.

Counter-revolutionaries, he said, had also threatened to take reprisals against Afghans who associated with Soviet soldiers. But the inhabitants of Hairhana had willingly posed for photographs with the troops.

Red Star quoted Afghan newspapers as saying the Soviet troops had come to the country "to defend our independence and territorial integrity" and had left "their mothers, wives and children to protect families and citizens of Afghanistan from foreign aggressors".

The newspaper's correspondent said "all honest Afghans react with sincere joy and deep gratitude towards the Soviet soldiers and openly show their feelings at countless meetings with them."

He quoted an agronomist, shown in a photograph with his arm around the shoulder of a smiling Soviet soldier from an artillery unit, as saying that Soviet aid had given Afghan peasants confidence in the future.

Mr. Gavrilov said he had asked a group of villagers what they thought about people "who still now spread vicious nonsense about Soviet soldiers and officers" and was told they completely rejected such gossip.



A total of 250 South American Indian tribes, together with representatives of many indigenous peoples of the five continents, met in the Peruvian village of Pisac, in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, for the First Congress of American Indians. Their

aim: to unite in order to regain the honour lost 460 years ago when the Spaniards invaded their country. The photo shows an Indian mass being held on the village square of Pisac. (Gamma photo)

Papua New Guinea premier steps down after losing confidence vote

PORT MORESBY, March 11 (R)—Prime Minister Michael Somare, who has led Papua New Guinea since independence five years ago, was today defeated on a vote of no confidence.

Mr. Somare, who had survived three attempts to unseat him in the last 18 months, was succeeded by Sir Julius Chan, leader of the opposition People's Progress Party.

The 43-year-old Mr. Somare had been much attacked recently by his critics who said he had an autocratic leadership style.

He was caught up last year in a bruising confrontation with the country's judiciary over the respective powers of the courts and the government. The row led to the resignation of three supreme court judges and prison riots.

It also produced strong public reaction against Mr. Somare, a fierce nationalist whose shrewd leadership has given the steamy

South Pacific nation a reputation for political stability envied by many developing countries.

The opposition spilled over into the parliamentary arena where critics said he rarely consulted his cabinet colleagues on major policies and paid too much attention to his advisers.

Mr. Somare's troubles deepened with the disintegration of his coalition partners, the United Party, last January. A faction, disgruntled over cabinet changes, decided to join the opposition grouping.

Members of Mr. Somare's Pangu Party lobbied intensively to

win over supporters from the loose alliance of opposition parties all day but finally lost the vote by 57 to 49 in the 109-seat parliament.

Mr. Somare has dominated Papua New Guinea's politics since independence in 1975. He has held his nation of three million people together in spite of separatist movements which threatened to tear it apart at birth.

He hands over to his successor a nation of 600 islands that has survived in spite of a fragile economy but is still beset with the problem of tribal warfare among a people speaking 700 distinct languages.

S. African cabinet holds 'showdown' meeting over premier's racial policies

CAPE TOWN, March 11 (R)—A cabinet meeting expected to feature a showdown over South Africa's racial policies which could herald a major split in the country's ruling National Party ended after three hours today with no statement being issued.

It followed rising political tension in the government over the race policies of Premier Pieter Botha.

This was brought to a head last week when a leading right-winger, Statistics Minister Andries Treurnicht, opposed a plan for two coloured (mixed race) teams to be included in a previously all-white schoolboy rugby week.

His statement was immediately countered by Mr. Botha, who dissociated himself from any remarks likely to sow dissent among the different race groups.

The cabinet meeting was preceded by a meeting last night between Mr. Botha and Dr. Treurnicht which was also attended by two senior cabinet ministers, apparently attempting to reconcile the differing viewpoints.

Mr. Botha had been expected to demand at the cabinet meeting that Dr. Treurnicht either support proposed changes in racial separation policies or resign.

Dr. Treurnicht is only a junior

member of the cabinet, but he also holds the powerful post of party leader in Transvaal province.

If he refuses to climb down from his position on maintaining the white-ruled country's apartheid (racial segregation) system, there could be a major split in the party.

The prime minister has pledged to eliminate many facets of racial separation known as "petty apartheid."

But right-wingers in his party, led by Dr. Treurnicht, challenged the prime minister's initiatives. Many of Mr. Botha's efforts have been bogged down by behind-the-scenes bickering.



Premier Pieter Botha

World News Briefs

LONDON, March 11 (R)—The provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) today claimed responsibility for wounding a British soldier in West Germany yesterday and an attack on an army installation today. The British soldier was not seriously hurt in the incident. Nobody was injured in today's attack, when guns fired on a British army radio relay station at Bielefeld. The IRA's message telegraphed to Reuters in London, said: "We assure the German people that none of our attacks are aimed at them, but solely at British forces and administrators who are oppressing our people. The IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, has also claimed responsibility for two other attacks on British personnel in West Germany during the past month."

LONDON, March 11 (R)—Calls for international cooperation to prevent pollution of the Arctic Ocean were issued today by Philip, Queen Elizabeth's husband, and Professor Louis Rey, president of the Arctic Committee. Their appeals came at the opening of a two-day conference on conservation of the Arctic Ocean sponsored by the Monaco-based Arctic Committee and the British Royal Geographical Society. The duke told the gathering of world scientists that the Arctic's resources would soon increase and hoped their discussions would lead to international action to prevent "permanent, irreversible or unacceptable" pollution of the sea. Professor Rey said that because the Arctic Ocean was ice-bound and almost encircled by land, air and river pollution lingered and was not easily dispersed. He called the ocean a "polar Mediterranean" which faced serious pollution problems from the countries bordering it.

BRUSSELS, March 11 (R)—Portugal has told its NATO partners plans to take part again in the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), which charts the Western alliance's nuclear strategy. NATO diplomats today, Portugal withdrew from the top-secret group in 1974. Washington objected to a government in which communists represented taking part in such highly sensitive discussions. The ministers from 12 countries will attend the next NPG meeting scheduled in Norway this spring. France, which withdrew from NATO's integrated military structure in 1964, and Luxembourg, whose armed forces are insignificant, do not take part.

NEW YORK, March 11 (R)—Former president Gerald Ford beat President Carter in a general election was held today, according to a new opinion poll. An ABC-Louis Harris poll also showed ex-president, now pondering whether to enter the 1980 battle for White House, would be the only republican to score ahead of Carter. It had Mr. Ford favoured over President Carter by 54 per cent and said he was also the favourite among Republican independents for the party's presidential nomination. According to the poll, Mr. Ford led Mr. Ronald Reagan, the conservative California governor considered the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, by 33 to 27 per cent. If an election was today, Mr. Carter would beat Mr. Reagan by 58 to 40 per cent, said Mr. Robert Strauss, who heads Mr. Carter's re-election effort, dismissed the poll's findings on a Carter-Ford race, saying ex-president was not yet "a real live candidate."

MOSCOW, March 11 (R)—Contact lenses, long considered unobtainable Western luxury by Soviet spectacle-wearers, are produced in the Soviet Union for the first time. A Soviet newspaper today said that a West German-equipped factory in the Ural town of Izyum would go into operation soon. Priority prescriptions would be given to those people who could not obtain ordinary spectacles for professional and health reasons, the union newspaper Trud said. It gave no indication of how much would cost.

Bombing of Turkish Airlines office claims second victim

ROME, March 11 (R)—A second victim of injuries caused by the explosion of a bomb set off by Armenian extremists at the office of Turkish Airlines here, hospital officials said.

Domenico Porcello, 67, died in the Policlinico hospital despite attempts by surgeons to save his life.

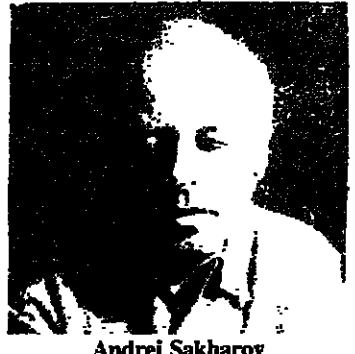
The first victim, New York-born professor Dante Sena, 63, was killed instantly by yesterday's explosion, set off by the self-styled "Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia" in their sixth bomb attack here in recent months. The organisation is pledged to set up an independent state for Armenians.

In a separate development last night, far-left extremists killed a cook in an apparent case of mistaken identity.

Luigi Allegretti, 36, was dead by two youths outside and shortly afterwards an unidentified telephone caller told national news agency ANSA "the Fascist Rosci" had murdered.

Police said that a well-known far-rightist, Mr. Gianfranco lived near Mr. Allegretti. Another group of extremists claimed responsibility today for a series of attacks on homes of right-wing Romans.

An unidentified telephone caller told ANSA the so-called "Anti-Fascist Territorial" had staged attacks against "black scum"—a reference to the traditional colour of Italian Fascism.



Andrei Sakharov

Colombian guerrillas cut demands to be met for release of hostages

BOGOTA, March 11 (R)—Left-wing Colombian guerrillas holding more than 30 hostages in the Dominican Republic embassy last night reduced the number of jailed guerrilla suspects they want freed in exchange for their captives and dropped some other demands, a diplomatic source said.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said the guerrillas, proposed during a fourth round of negotiations with the government that 70 "political prisoners" should be set free. They had earlier called for the release of at least 311 guerrilla suspects.

They also cut a \$50 million ransom demand to \$10 million and abandoned insistence on publication of their manifesto in the countries whose nationals are being held in the embassy.

Members of the M-19 guerrilla group stormed the embassy during a reception on Feb. 27. Among their hostages are 12 ambassadors.

The source said the guerrillas felt that the worldwide publicity their action had already won made publication of their manifesto unnecessary.

One of the hostages, Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, was

present at the negotiations.

The source quoted him as saying: "In the name of all the hostages, I ask the Colombian Government to avoid a violent action."

Last night's negotiations were held with a hooded woman guerrilla in a van outside the embassy.

Both sides had stuck to their positions during three previous rounds of talks.

Before the fourth round, Colombian President Julio Turbay Ayala said he hoped the problem could be solved "in the best way possible," but added the solution did not depend entirely on the government.

Talks were suspended over the weekend as Colombians voted in municipal and provincial elections. Mr. Turbay called for a massive turnout to show public support for democracy following the embassy takeover.

E. Mediterranean stability should be 'among highest' U.S. priorities

WASHINGTON, March 11 (R)—The stability of Turkey and resolution of its dispute with Greece should be a top U.S. priority, two key members of Congress said yesterday.

In a statement issued with the publication of a congressional study on U.S.-Turkish relations, Congressmen Lee Hamilton and Paul Findley said Turkey's mounting economic problems were a potential danger to the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Mr. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat and chairman of the House of Representatives Europe

and Middle East Subcommittee, and Mr. Findley, a Republican, said finding solutions to the region's problems should be "among the highest priorities of U.S. foreign policy."

"The political and economic stability of Turkey, its commitment and military capability to fulfill its commitment to NATO, the resolution of the Greek-Turkish differences regarding the Aegean, the Cyprus conflict and Greece's reintegration in the NATO military command should be a high order of business for the

United States," they added.

In its study of the issues facing Congress in U.S.-Turkish relations, the Library of Congress said it seemed clear Congress would be faced with requests for substantial economic and military aid for Turkey in the foreseeable future.

Congress' position on aid requests, it said, probably would have a profound effect on U.S.-Turkish relations. If Congress wished to influence continued U.S.-Turkish military cooperation, it might consider increasing present military aid, the study added.

To help Turkey's deteriorating economy, the study said, Congress might consider increasing aid to ease Turkey's balance of payments crisis, establishing technical aid programmes or linking aid to economic reforms.

The Carter administration has proposed \$252 million in military aid and \$200 million in economic aid for Turkey in the year starting Oct. 1.

On the Cyprus dispute, the Library of Congress suggested two possible approaches.

It said Congress might encourage the administration to use the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty as a model to seek a settlement, including possible extensive aid to Cyprus and assistance to repatriate Turkish military and civilian personnel in the Turkish-occupied part of the island.

A possible alternative, it said, was to curtail aid to both Turkey and Greece until substantial progress was made on a Cyprus settlement.

"Such a double-edged embargo involved serious risks, and could be highly controversial in both Greece and Turkey, as well as in the United States," the study said.

Jailed Pakistan journalist challenges military court

LAHORE, Pakistan, March 11 (R)—Jailed Pakistan journalist Salam Ali, staff correspondent of the Hongkong-based Far Eastern Economic Review, yesterday challenged the authority of the summary military court which sentenced him to one year's hard labour.

His lawyer, Mr. Syed Mohammad Zafar, chairman of Pakistan's Human Rights Society, filed a petition in the Punjab High Court seeking to overturn the sentence and at the same time questioning the legality of Pakistan's martial law government.

Mr. Ali, 45, was jailed on Nov. 29 for writing a despatch which the government considered inflammatory and detrimental to the well-being of the country.

Military ruler General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq toughened his martial law last October after cancelling general elections. Floggings increased and he also imposed press censorship.

Mr. Ali, a veteran Pakistan journalist, wrote about Pakistan's unruly Baluchistan province and the government's efforts to win over the leaders of the Baluch tribes.

During his trial the prosecution's chief witness, the home minister of Baluchistan province Colonel Abdul Rauf Khan, said he considered Mr. Ali's article a reasonable interpretation of the situation in the province but disputed some facts and figures dealing with the government's distribution of arms to the tribes.

The Punjab High Court accepted the petition and a hearing is expected in a month, Mr. Zafar said.

The petition challenged the martial law government's legal right to try civilians before military tribunals while ordinary courts were operating, and its authority to prevent appeals from military tribunals being heard by the provincial high courts.

The interest rate 'war' simmers on

By Peter Calvert
LONDON—Efforts by countries to protect their currencies and curb inflation have plunged the world deep into an interest rate "war" which may severely restrain economic growth.

A rise in U.S. interest rates to record levels in February sparked competitive increases in rates from other key industrial nations, including Japan and West Germany.

Further U.S. rises this month which strongly boosted the dollar now appear likely to trigger another round of increases.

The leapfrogging of rates emphasised the strong influence the U.S. economy can exert on the fortunes of other countries and also threatened to undermine the relative stability in recent months of world currency markets, economists said.

The rapid rise of rates would almost inevitably restrain growth in industrialised countries by choking off investment and consumer demand, they added. A major danger was that the competitive rises would become sufficiently uncontrolled to tip some nations towards recession.

The U.S. interest rate rises were primarily caused by efforts to curb money supply in order to restrain

accelerating inflation. In February, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, raised its discount rate by one per cent to 13 per cent and announced its determination to tighten credit.

U.S. banks responded by progressively lifting their prime rates, the levels at which they lend to their best corporate customers, from 15 to a record 17.75 per cent. But demand for loans in the middle of a U.S. tax paying season has remained high, while the money supply has continued to grow.

As economists awaited a new anti-inflation package from President Carter, which may further squeeze credit, they forecast that U.S. interest rates would have to go even higher before choking off loan demand.

Many analysts said tough measures were necessary now against U.S. inflation because the government had failed to sustain earlier attacks on rising prices. The impact of the progressive U.S. rate rises was transmitted to other nations through foreign exchange markets.

The higher interest rates on dollar deposits attracted investors' funds away from other currencies and thus strongly boosted the value of the dollar.

West Germany, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland and Denmark all lifted their official lending rates to protect their currencies, but these increases were soon effectively cancelled out by the continuing rise of U.S. rates. Other

nations such as Austria and Italy also came under strong pressure to increase official rates while interest levels for short-term loans on European money markets soared.

By the end of the first week in March the dollar was trading at about 1.796 West German marks compared with about 1.735 marks in the middle of February. In the same period it rose to 1.716 Swiss francs from 1.618 and 248.5 Japanese yen from 243.3.

The strong incentive for most industrialised capitalist countries to lift their own interest rates in competition with the United States comes from three separate motives.

One is to attract funds which otherwise would flow to dollar holdings.

Another is to maintain the value of their currencies against the dollar in order to prevent the cost of their imports rising sharply. Most countries import a large quantity of goods, including oil, whose worth is calculated in dollars.

A third motive is a domestic one to restrain their own inflation by higher interest rates.

There are however also major pressures to keep rates down. Any rise is likely to bring adverse political consequences for governments through its impact on consumers and house buyers, economists said. It will make it harder for businesses to pay off existing loans and may choke off desirable investment. Rises could eventually push a country towards

recession.

Some nations with stronger economies, particularly Japan, are doing their best to avoid raising their rates any further. After a one per cent rise in the official Japanese discount rate last month failed to stem speculation against the yen, Japan agreed to a support policy for the currency with the U.S., West Germany and Switzerland.

Under the policy, those countries sell dollars on currency markets when the dollar rises sharply against the yen.

The policy helped drive up the yen from a low of 252 per dollar, but dealers doubted whether it would be sufficient to support the currency in the long term.

Japanese interest rates are only around half the level of those in the United States, and the country's balance of payments deficit has also widened because of the rising cost of oil.

West German bankers said domestic interest rates there had stabilised following a one per cent rise in that country's official lending rate. But the mark had continued to fall and the West German central bank's main priority would be to protect the currency, they added.

In Switzerland, which has long retained very low interest rates, National Bank President Fritz Leutwiler said rates would have to rise further if the weakening franc was to be protected.

The latest U.S. prime rate rises also brought Britain firm the interest rate war. Prime rates have now above the 17 per cent commercial bank lending rate. Until recently this was higher than comparable other industrialised countries after being pushed up by a contain inflation.

In a period of about sterling fell some five cents the dollar.

However, Britain was

mined not to let its rate higher, bankers said. An increase was probably acceptable for political reasons, while the country's export situation, been suffering from a relatively high value of, against the dollar.

Some bankers and economists predicted, with varying confidence, that the worldwide interest rates might peak in the middle of the year as U.S. supply and inflation were under control.

But the future course of the world economy on a variety of factors is difficult to predict.

What was certain, economists said, was that international interest rates present the dominant influence on the value of currencies.

And it was almost certain that further interest rate rises by a number of countries were likely to be followed.

REUTERS

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